

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY STUDIES

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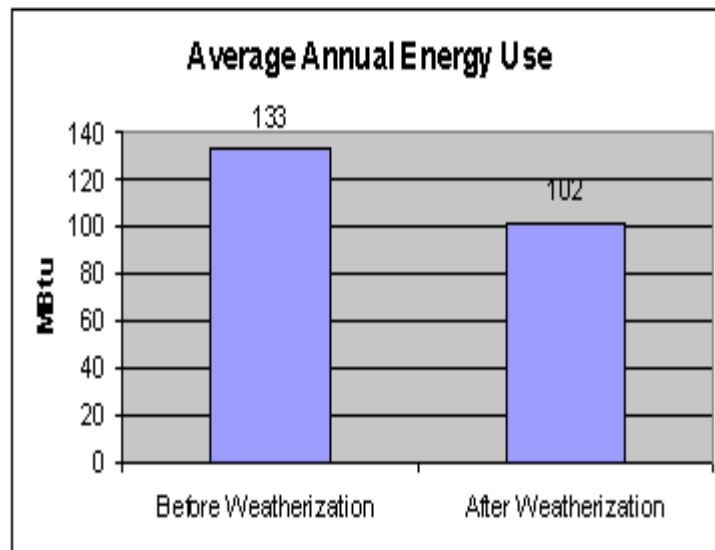
### *Does Weatherization Work For Low-Income Natural Gas Customers?*

*The Science says Yes:*

Excerpts From: the Oak Ridge National Laboratory online summary...  
<http://weatherization.ornl.gov>

Berry, Linda, *State-Level Evaluations of the Weatherization Assistance Program in 1990-1996: A MetaEvaluation that Estimates National Savings*, [ORNL/CON-435](#), Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, January 1997.

#### 1996 Results for Natural Gas Savings in Low-Income Weatherized Homes



#### Objective

In 1990, DOE sponsored a comprehensive evaluation and assessment (the National Evaluation) of the Program under the supervision of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. . seven years later, a variety of program improvements has been implemented. These improvements led everyone familiar with the Program to expect that its energy savings and cost effectiveness were higher than they had been in the 1989 Program Year ... studied by the National Evaluation). This report updates information on Program performance and compares 1989 findings to 1996 findings.

#### Approach

The approach selected for updating energy savings and cost-effectiveness indicators of Program performance was a metaevaluation of state-level evaluations. This metaevaluation involved locating, assembling, integrating, and summarizing the results of all state-level evaluations of the Program that have become available since 1990.

## Results

...The metaevaluation developed a regression-based national estimate of 1996 savings; it indicated that average savings in homes using natural gas as the primary heating fuel were 31.2 Mbtu, which was 33.5% of natural gas space heating consumption. The 1996 savings constituted a reduction of 23.4% of consumption of natural gas for all end uses.

(These findings can be...) compared to the reduction of 13.5% reported by the National Evaluation (which also) reported 1989 gas savings of 17.3 Mbtu, 18.3% of space heating consumption.

With the increased energy savings, the value of annual avoided energy costs per gas-heated household also increased ...and the benefit/cost ratio for the program rose from 1.61 to 2.40."(*EOS note: at 1996 prices!*)

### **NOTE:**

**AT THE DOE EIA October 2005 FORECAST 2006 PRICE OF  
\$15.25 PER THOUSAND CUBIC FEET OF GAS, THE AVOIDED  
BILLS FOR 31.2 MILLION BTU IN A WEATHERIZED  
GAS-HEATED HOME WILL BE NEARLY  
\$460 in 2005-2006**